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**THE REV. EDWARD
TOVMASSIAN**

GRACE ABOUNDS

By G. H. Chopourian



G. H. Chopourian

The *Modern English Bible* translates the verse in John 1:16 in a language which is more appropriate for modern days: "Out of his full store we have received grace upon grace."

Full stores are familiar scenes in our materially rich country. Articles upon articles by the thousands appear in neat piles on many floors of business concerns for customers to draw upon. A moment of reflection stuns the imagination and one exclaims internally, "Is it possible that all these goods might be sold?" The feeling of such great abundance increases when one thinks of the large storehouses and warehouses in which goods are stocked, the source from which supplies are delivered to the retail stores. One amazed customer in Macy's burst out: "Why, this store can meet the needs of a country of ten million people!" Yes, the supplies are incredibly large. Goods upon goods, apparel upon apparel, wares upon wares. Extraordinary abundance!

The next step is to think of God's "full store" itself. It is not loaded with shoes and socks, dryers and diapers, machines and make-ups, lighting and linen, furniture and firearms. God's store is full of one item, only one, *Love*, but in its various dimensions of compassion, creativity, faithfulness and goodness. From this "full store" the Apostle John states, we have received grace upon grace. Those three words constitute a phrase which demonstrates the multiplicity, "oftenness" and repetitiveness of God's grace—one upon another unto infinity.

This grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

Hence, Christmas.

Finally, we must acknowledge the extensive spread of that grace through Christ. A devoted Christian, after a Christmas carol singing session observed, "I could not help thinking about other Christians around the world who most probably are singing the same carols—Peace on Earth, Joy to the World—bringing unusual unity of spirit." Yes, consider that! Christ's impact on many in the seven continents and in four hundred or more countries and states. There is a universality in Christ which the world has not tapped yet. But it will, for there is nothing better and the world wants the best always.

We, in the circles of the Armenian Missionary Association of America, have seen the impact of Christ on individuals. One beautiful Christian said on being told he can't take his wealth with him; "No, you are wrong. I have the secret. I keep it by giving it all away," and he has given all for Christian work. We have truly received "grace upon grace" and believe "grace abounds" in our world.

In the United States somewhere between 75 and 90 billion dollars are given to charities. If a house costing \$50,000 were donated, one billion dollars would buy 20,000 homes, practically enough to house a population of 100,000. 90 billion would house 9 million.

Grace abounds! Take courage Christmas guarantees that!

"Indeed, it is for your sake that all things are ordered, so that, as the abounding grace of God is shared by more and more, the greater may be the chorus of thanksgiving that ascends to the glory of God." (2 Cor. 4:15)

**Հայ Աւետարանչական Ընկերակցութեան
Նախագահը՝ Պրն. Նազար Տաղեան,
ինչպէս նաեւ Վարչական Խորհուրդի բոլոր
անդամները, կը մաղթեն ձեզի Ծնորհաբեր
Սուրբ Ծնունդ եւ Օրհնաբեր Նոր Տարի:**

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

ON THE "MISSION OF THE ARMENIAN EVANGELICAL MOVEMENT"

Your article in the August issue on the Armenian Evangelical Movement was very informative on its functions, local and abroad. I think you are doing a great service through your magazine and I have always enjoyed helping your work financially when funds were available and the Lord led me toward that direction.

Alice M. Shipley
Phoenix, AZ

My sincere congratulations for your beautiful article entitled "The Mission of the Armenian Evangelical Movement," in the August 1985 AMAA NEWS. It made me doubly proud to be an Armenian Evangelical, and I thank God for that. Yes, we do have a mission to our nation, and all our churches should start working in this area.

Sarkis Hanenian
Montreal, Canada

Just a note to say how fine I thought your recent article, "The Mission of the Evangelical Movement" was in the recent issue of AMAA NEWS.

Dicran Berberian
Easton, MD.

I have just read your article in the AMAA NEWS about, "The Mission of the Armenian Evangelical Movement." It is very good, positive and constructive. More power to you.

Augustine Badeer
Fresno, CA.

AMAA HOLDS SIXTY-SIXTH ANNUAL MEETING AND ADOPTS \$1.7 MILLION BUDGET FOR FISCAL 1985-86

The sixty-sixth Annual Meeting of the Armenian Missionary Association of America, Inc. (AMAA) was held on October 20, 1985 at the Immanuel Armenian Congregational Church (IACC) of Downey, CA. The meeting, which was chaired by the President of the AMAA, Mr. Nazar Y. Daghlilian of Lansdowne, PA, was attended by a large group of AMAA members and supporters as well as pastors and lay representatives of Armenian Evangelical Churches from all parts of the United States and Canada. In his opening remarks, Mr. Daghlilian greeted the members and delegates in attendance and highlighted the main achievements of the year.



The participants in the Ministers' Retreat-Seminar held in conjunction with the 66th Annual Meeting of the AMAA.

Reports to the Constituency

Mr. Aram Minnetian of Westwood, N.J., the Treasurer of the AMAA, reported that during the past fiscal year, the consolidated net worth of the Association had risen by \$1,822,000 over the previous year to \$15,961,000. "Our continued financial growth," he said, "is a reflection of the Armenian community's belief in the goals of the AMAA and

their confidence in our ability and dedication to carry-out these goals." Mr. Minnetian also reported the Board has adopted an annual budget of \$1.7 million for fiscal 1985-1986, and said: "We are confident that with God's help, our members and friends will continue their support and enable us to satisfy all worthy requests for

assistance that come to us from the Armenian Communities in the U.S. and worldwide." The unprecedentedly high annual budget of \$1.7 million, which was unanimously accepted by the Assembly, will benefit over forty different educational, evangelistic, social and church projects the AMAA supports in the Arme-

The Inspirational Corner

THINGS OR HIM

Many years ago a great monarch, Shah Abbas, reigned in Persia. The Shah deeply loved his people. But in order to understand them more clearly, he would mingle with them in various disguises.

One day he went as a poor man to the public baths, and there he sat beside the common man who tended his furnace. At meal time he shared the commoner's coarse food, talking with the lonely man as a friend. Again and again the Shah visited the commoner until the man grew to love him.

Some time later the Shah revealed who he really was. The Shah waited, expecting the man to ask for some gift or favor. But the commoner simply gazed in wonder.

Overcome with amazement, the man spoke at last: "You left your palace and your glory to sit with me in this humble place, to partake of my coarse food, to care whether my heart was glad or heavy. On others you may bestow great riches;

but to me you have given a much greater gift—yourself. I pray thee only that you may never withdraw the gift of your friendship."

So Jesus "who from the very first was divine in nature, made himself nothing, assuming the nature of a slave. Bearing human likeness, revealed in human shape, he humbled himself, and in obedience accepted even death on a cross." (Philippians 2:6-8) And this same Jesus said two things: "Ask, and you will receive" (Matthew 7:7) and "Be assured, I am with you always, to the end of time." (Matthew 28:20)

At this Christmas Season, as always, we can ask for things or for Him. If we ask for things only, we may forget Him and end up having nothing. But if we ask for Him, we will have all things needed for our development into His likeness, and we will also have Him now and forevermore.

Vartan Hartunian



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Some of the participants in the program of the Sixty-Sixth Annual Banquet: (L. to R.) Albert Momjian, Esq., Keynote Speaker; Mrs. Joyce Stein, Chairman of Stephen Philibosian Foundation, an AMAA Affiliate; Mr. Aram Minnetian, Master of Ceremonies; Mr. Vahe Ashkarian, Chairman of the Banquet Committee; Mr. Nazar Y. Daghljan, AMAA President

nian Communities of 15 countries.

The reports of the Recording Secretary to the Board, Mrs. Marie Nahigian of Belmont, MA; Executive Director, The Rev. Dr. G. H. Chopourian; Field Director, The Rev. Moses B. Janbazian; West Coast Regional Director, Mr. Jack Loussarian; and chairmen of committees, chapters and affiliated boards, pointed to an increasing effort on the part of the 67 year old Association to meet the varied needs of the Armenian Communities in the world. The financial reports showed that during the past fiscal year, about 600,000 was assigned to the Armenian Communities of Syria and Lebanon where the AMAA supports 2 medical clinics, 3 undernourished children's camps, 1 orphanage, 3 nursing homes, 2 institutes for the blind, 2 christian publications, 13 schools, the Haigazian College in Beirut and a number of other ministries. The reports on the Middle East operations of the Association indicated that last year, the leadership of the AMAA had also undertaken new and significant projects in Lebanon such as the launching of a Food-Coupon Program to meet the critical needs of impoverished individuals and families in Beirut; the receipt and distribution of a shipment of 40 tons of material aid to Lebanon; and the opening of a Haigazian College branch in East Beirut, keeping its main operation in West Beirut. In explaining the generous financial assistance provided to the Middle East, President Daghljan said: "The political tensions in the area, and specially the persistent fighting and

soaring inflation in Lebanon, are having disastrous effect on our communities in the region. Our fellow Christian Armenians often feel isolated and crippled in their endeavors. In the face of growing uncertainties and hardships, the leadership of the AMAA had made it a priority to uphold them in every possible way in their ongoing struggle for a constructive Christian presence and an effective witness in the area." Noteworthy in the financial reports were also the generous budgetary provisions made to AMAA in the United States such as the Merdian Armenian Evangelical School of Los Angeles, CA (\$42,000); the Armenian Evangelical Social Service Center in Hollywood, CA (\$47,000); scholarship aid to college and university students (\$137,000); Armenian Day Schools (\$20,000); Nursing Homes (\$24,000); and a number of other educational and missionary programs serving the Armenian Community of North America.

Following the report of the Auditor of the Association, Charles Davitian, CPA, of Braunfeld and Davitian P.C. Certified Public Accountants, the report of the Chairman of the Nominating Committee, Mr. Archie Cherkezian, was released and the results of the election to the Board was announced as follows: Mrs. Elizabeth Agabian, Mr. Hrant Agabian, both of Los Angeles, CA; The Rev. Dr. Paul Gertmenian of San Francisco, CA; Mr. John Cherkezian of Wycoff, N.J.; Dr. Sarkis Kalfayan of La Canada, CA; Mrs. Michele Simourian of Boston, MA; Dr. Jack Kevorkian of Swarthmore, PA (ap-

pointed by the Board). They were elected to serve on the 21-member Board of Directors of the Association as the Class of 1988.

The Business of the meeting ended with the concluding remarks of the President, Mr. Daghljan, who paid tribute to the constituency and leadership of the Association and said, "Financial and material gain is good, but without works it is worthless in the sight of God. Thanks to the devotion, sacrificial giving and tireless efforts of its members, executives, officers and Board of Directors, the AMAA is steadily growing not only in its material resources but also in its missionary outreach and service projects in many areas." The meeting, which was held in an atmosphere of fraternal love and Christian fellowship, was adjourned with a prayer of dismissal by Mr. Henry Gertmenian of Oakland, CA, one of the eldest and prominent members in attendance who has held many positions in the past in the Board, AMAA Chapters and the Haigazian College and who daily prays by name for the Executives of the Association.

Retreat and Seminary for Pastors

The 66th Annual Meeting was marked with a series of important activities, the first one being a three-day Ministers' Retreat-Seminar starting on Wednesday, October 16th. This was the fifth Retreat-Seminar in five years, organized and funded by the AMAA for the office-holding pastors of the Armenian Evangelical Churches in North America.

The Seminar was attended by twenty-two ordained ministers and about ten laymen. The program, which included a number of themes related to missions, was led by the Reverends Röger Minassian, Vahan Tootkian, Berdj Djambazian and Krikor Haleblan. An interesting theme entitled, "The Socio-Psychological Problems of the New Armenian Generation," was presented by Prof. Kevork Kherlopian, the son of the late Rev. Dicran Kherlopian who was a prominent Armenian Evangelical minister, author and professor of Armenian subjects at Haigazian College in Beirut, Lebanon. Kevork Kherlopian is Professor of Sociology at the University of Yerevan in Armenia.

The Board of Directors Convene Three Times

On Friday, Saturday and Sunday October 18, 19 and 20, the Board of Directors met at the Immanuel Armenian Congregational Church and deliberated on a large variety of subjects related to the work of the Association. Two of the main agenda items were, (1) Workshop on the Bylaws of the Association, led by Albert Momjian, Esq., the chairman of the constitution and Bylaws committee, and AMAA Solicitor for 20 years; (2) the joint report of the President, Mr. Nazar Daghljan, and the Executive Director, The Rev. Dr. G. H. Chopourian, on the recent conference held in Cyprus at which five AMAA delegates, and 5 Syria and 11 Lebanon representatives met to review the concerns in the mission field. It was noted that although the conference was brief, it was possible to realize its objectives, namely, visit with the leaders of the Armenian Evangelical Community of Syria and Lebanon to (1) review the missionary work in Syria and Lebanon and further coordinate the AMAA supported projects in the area for better results and more effective service.

Youth Rally

On Friday, October 18 at 7:30 p.m., the Los Angeles groups of the Armenian Evangelical Youth Fellowship (AEYF) held a Youth Rally at the Immanuel Armenian Congregational Church in celebration of the missionary outreach of the AMAA. The rally, the first of its kind held in conjunction with an AMAA annual meeting, featured an inspiring program of songs, scripture readings,

A TRIBUTE TO THE REV. EDWARD S. TOVMASSIAN

By G. H. Chopourian



The Rev. and Mrs. Edward Tovmassian

I am happy and pleased to have been given the opportunity to pay tribute to a Christian gentleman whom I have known for the past 30 years. He has been our house guest on many occasions in his official capacities and as a friend.

He is a man of wide experience

Born in Aleppo and educated in Syria and later in Lebanon where he received the B.A. and B.D. degrees, he served close to half a century in numerous capacities as Associate Pastor, Youth Worker, Principal of a High School and Pastor in a dozen different cities in three countries.

He is a man of sweet temperament, compassion and kindness. A firm leader, but sympathetic and understanding. One thing all who have known him will agree upon: He is full of empathy and one who loves his flock.

He is a man of God

Committed to Christ, he has a

Christ-centered approach to his ministry giving touching and teaching sermons. His walk with God has made him conscious of the needs of his flock and his sermons have been relevant to life.

He is a Missionary

His goal in life has been to help men and women, young and old, to discover the purpose of their lives and to find fulfillment in the promise of Christ for fullness of life in this world and eternal life in the future (hereafter). He demonstrated through his witness and messages that Christ is still the best news for man for He relates to the innermost needs of the human soul.

He served the AMAA for close to a decade as Executive Secretary, raising supporters for the Association, the benefits of which I have reaped personally as the present Executive Director of the AMAA.

As is known, behind a good man there is always a good wife. We honor and pay tribute to The Rev. Edward S. Tovmassian and Arousiag, his gracious wife.

prayers, testimonies and music presented by close to 25 talented youth representing the five Armenian Evangelical churches of Southern California. The highly appreciated event provided an evening of real celebration and inspiration to

those in attendance. All were specially touched by the testimony of two AMAA supported seminary students who shared brief messages on what AMAA has meant in their spiritual pilgrimage and training for Christian ministry.

Service of Praise

The 66th Annual Meeting was preceded by a special Service of Praise held at the Immanuel Armenian Congregational Church. The pastor of the host church, The Rev. Edward Tovmassian, acted as the liturgist of the service and preached in Armenian. The main sermon in English was delivered by The Rev. Dr. Paul Gertmenian of Oakland, CA, who preached on the theme, "Mission: Local and Universal." In a scholarly and thought-provoking homily, Dr. Gertmenian reflected on the local and universal dimensions of the missionary task Jesus Christ has entrusted to his followers.

The 5th grade students of the AMAA-supported Charlotte and Elise Merdinian Armenian Evangelical School of Hollywood participated in the Order of the Service with two hymns. They truly heightened the joy and inspiration of the congregation in attendance.

Gala Banquet

The Gala Banquet, a traditional Annual Meeting-related activity, was held on Saturday, October 19, in the evening, at

the Paul Avazian Hall of the United Armenian Congregational Church of the North Hollywood. Organized by a special Committee, under the leadership of Mr. Vahe Ashkarian and Mrs. Kay Zoolalian, the event was attended by approximately 300 AMAA members and friends including out-of-state guests, pastors and delegates. Mr. Aram Minnetian of Westwood, N.J., served as the Master of Ceremonies of the Banquet during which the President, Mr. Daghljan, and eight outgoing Board members, namely, Mr. Hrant Agbabian, Mrs. Alice Haig, Mr. Vahe Ashkarian, Dr. George Bezirgian, Mr. John Bogosian, Mr. George Philibosian, Mrs. Marie Nahigian and Mr. John Cherkezian were awarded Appreciation Plaques. A special service plaque was also presented to former West Coast Regional Director, Dr. Pepronia Merjanian. The main speaker on the program was Albert Momjian, Esq. of Philadelphia, PA, the long-time, capable and dedicated Solicitor of the AMAA. In an interesting and moving address, attorney Momjian spoke about the nature and scope of the AMAA ministries, as he

foresaw them, in the 21st century. He challenged the members and leadership of the Association to be prepared for the opportunities and contingencies of the future. The musical performers at the Banquet were the young artists, David Bakamjian, cellist, and his wife, Gwendolyn Mok, pianist, of Stony Brook, N.Y. This was the third time that these gifted friends of the Association graciously shared their musical talents at AMAA Annual Meeting Banquets. Dr. Chopourian paid a special tribute in honor of The Rev. Edward Tovmassian for his services as a faithful minister of the Gospel for over 40 years and as the capable Executive Secretary of the AMAA from 1959 to 1968. Rev. Tovmassian, in accepting the special gift of an airline ticket to and from Aleppo, Syria, his birthplace and hometown, expressed his gratitude for the honor extended to him and his wife, Arousiag, who was also remembered with a gift, and said that he had enjoyed every minute of his Christian ministry and his service to the AMAA.



Mr. Aram Minnetian, the newly-re-elected Treasurer of the AMAA



John G. Keuhnelian, M.D., the newly-re-elected Vice President of the AMAA



Mr. Hrant Agbabian, the newly-elected Vice President of the AMAA



Mr. John Cherkezian, the newly-elected Recording Secretary to the Board of Directors of the AMAA



Mr. Harry Dulgarian, the newly-elected Recording Secretary to the Board of Directors of the AMAA

AMAA REELECTS NAZAR DAGHLIAN PRESIDENT

The Executive Director of the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA), The Rev. Dr. G. H. Chopourian, announced that the Board or Directors of the Association, at its meeting of November 16, 1985, unanimously reelected Mr. Nazar Y. Daghljan of Lansdowne, PA, to the presidency of the AMAA for the current 1985-86 fiscal year. Mr. Daghljan, who held the same office during the last fiscal year, had also served as AMAA's President from 1968 through 1971.

Mr. Daghljan, a passionate Armenian and a firm believer in missionary outreach, has a long record of distinguished services to the AMAA. Ever since his arrival in the U.S., in 1957, he has been active participant in the Association as Vice President, (1966 to 1968); Board member; Executive Committee member and as Chairman and member of many committees. He has also served the Association as a Trustee of the Stephen



Mr. Nazar Y. Daghljan, the newly-re-elected President of the AMAA

Philibosian Foundation, an Affiliate of AMAA; Trustee of Haigazian College in its formative years; Chairman of the Armenian Evangelical World Conference of 1978; and the first editor of the Armenian/American Outlook, later incorporated with the AMAA NEWS.

Mr. Daghljan's last term as President of the AMAA was marked with a number of new and significant developments in the life and work of the Association. These included the creation of a joint AMAA/AEUNA Home Mission committee; the opening of a branch of Haigazian College in East Beirut; the shipment of 250,000 dollars worth of material aid to Lebanon; the Computerization of the office operation of the Association; the convening of a conference in Cyprus between AMAA delegates and representatives of the mission field in Syria and Lebanon; the provision of increased financial assistance to the AMAA support projects in North America; and the designation of March of every year as AMAA Month by the Armenian Evangelical Unions of the Near East and France, a custom which is practiced by the Armenian Evangelical Union of North America.

Born in Aintab in Cilician Armenia, Mr.

His impressive record of service as an educator and administrator started before his arrival to the United States. He began as a teacher in the English Mission College in Heliopolis, Egypt and later at St. George's school in Jerusalem. He became the principal of the Tarkmanchatz school of Damascus, Shwayr Secondary School of Lebanon and the Armenian Evangelical College of Beirut. In 1959, he joined the faculty of the Springfield Township High School in Pennsylvania and until his retirement, last June, he served as the Chairman of the Foreign Language Department of the School District of Springfield Township where he also taught French.

Mr. Daghljan is married to the former Lucy Kassouny and they have two daughters, a son and two grandchildren.

Other newly-elected officers of the Board are: Mr. Hrant Agbabian of Los Angeles, CA, and John G. Keuhnelian, M.D. of Tenafly, NJ, Vice Presidents; Mr. Aram Minnetian of Westwood, NJ, Treasurer; Mr. Vahram N. Aynilian of Alpine, NJ, Assistant Treasurer; Mr. John Cherkezian of Wykoff, NJ, and Mr. Harry Dulgarian of Belmont, MA, Co-Recording Secretaries. The newly elected

members of the Board of Directors constituting the Class of 1988 are: Elizabeth Agbabian (CA); Hrant Agbabian (CA); John Cherkezian (NJ); Sarkis Kalfayan, Ph.D. (CA); The Rev. Paul Gertmenian, Ph.D. (CA); Jack Kevorkian, Ph.D. (PA); and Michele Simourian (MA).

The other members of the Board of Directors of the Association are: Daniel Abdulian, M.D. (CA); George Ajemian, D.D.S. (Canada); The Rev. Karl Vartan Avakian (NJ); Diane DeMirjian (PA); Edward Janjigian (NJ); John G. Keuhnelian, M.D. (NJ); Elida N. Telfeyan (NY); Nazar Daghljan (PA); Harry Dulgarian (MA); Samuel Hekemian (NJ); H. Philip Hovnanian, Ph.D. (NY); Alan Philibosian, Esq. (NJ); Kirk Sermabeikian (NJ); and The Rev. Ron Tovmassian (MA). The four Alternate Board members for fiscal 1985-86 include: Ara Manougian, M.D. (NJ); Vahe Ashkarian (CA); John Bogosian (PA); and Jack A. Abadian (CA).

The ex officio members of the Board of Directors of the AMAA are: The Rev. Dr. G. H. Chopourian of Paramus, NJ, Executive Director; The Rev. Dr. Peter

Doghramji of Havertown, PA, Moderator of the AEUNA and AMAA honorary Vice President; Rendel Levonian, M.D. of Whittier, CA., Chairman of Haigazian College's Board of Trustees; Albert Momjian, Esq. of Huntingdon Valley, PA., Solicitor; Charles J. Davitian, C.P.A. of Kew Gardens, NY., Comptroller; Mrs. Joseph H. Stein, Jr. of Malibu, CA., Chairman of the Stephen Philibosian Foundation; and Steve Kradjian of Los Angeles, CA, President of the Armenian Evangelical Youth Fellowship.

The 21-member Board of Directors of the AMAA is elected by the members of the Association which number about 10,000 consistent and inconsistent contributors from all parts of the United States. The Board of Directors is the governing body of the Association and meets at least five times during each fiscal year to consider and act upon issues related to the missionary outreach of this unique Armenian Missionary organization which has served the physical and spiritual needs of the Armenian people ever since its inception in 1918.

CHARLOTTE AND ELISE MERDINIAN ARMENIAN EVANGELICAL SCHOOL RECEIVES A SECOND HALF MILLION FROM ELISE MERDINIAN

Miss Elise Merdinian, a well-known AMAA benefactress who contributed \$500,000 four years ago to the Charlotte and Elise Merdinian Armenian Evangelical School of North Hollywood, CA. recently made another donation of \$500,000 to the School which is named after her late sister, Charlotte, and herself. Miss Merdinian made her second gift public on November 9, 1985 at the fourth annual banquet of the school. The announcement of the princely donation brought the overjoyed audience of some 450 guests at the banquet to their feet to give a standing ovation to the benefactress. In graciously accepting a commemorative plaque marking the occasion, Miss Merdinian said, "I am thankful for the opportunity of helping Armenian children get a sound Armenian and Christian education."

With this new donation, Miss Merdinian's total contribution to the School reaches \$1 million. This most generous and sizable fund, which is under the Trusteeship of the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA), will ensure the continuity and progress of the school.

The banquet on November 9th, which was held at the Avazian Hall of the United Armenian Congregational Church of North Hollywood, was organized by a special committee chaired

Djambazian, Pastor of the Host Church, gave the invocation and Mr. Harold A. DeMirjian acted as Master of Ceremonies of the evening during which a Certificate of Appreciation Plaque was presented to Mrs. Alice Haig of Laguna Beach, CA., the founding chairman of the School Board. Mrs. Haig, a former AMAA Vice President and Board member, had a key role in the establishment of the School in 1982. Also appreciatively recognized was Mr. Luther Eskijian of Altadena, CA. for his valuable moral and financial support of the School. Mr. Eskijian, a devoted Christian gentleman, graciously and lovingly helps in the management of Miss Merdinian's financial affairs. The keynote speakers at the banquet were Judge Robert Mardikian and The Rev. Sarmazian, and the musical performers were Elize Tashjian and Vatche Mankerian. Other participants in the program included: Mr. Sebuha Tashjian, the newly-elected Chairman of the School Board; Mr. Jack Loussararian, the East Coast Regional Director of the AMAA; The Rev. Harry Missirlian, Minister to the AEUNA; and Mr. Zaven Khanjian, the capable Treasurer of the School Board.

The Merdinian Armenian Evangelical School, which aims at providing quality education in a Christian and bicultural environment, is governed by a 15 member Board consisting of the representatives of the AMAA, AEUNA and the Armenian



Miss Elise Merdinian, AMAA Benefactress

Evangelical Churches of Southern California. After The Rev. Daniel Albarian, the first Administrator/Chaplain of the School, accepted the pastorate of the Armenian Evangelical Church of New York in 1984, the administration of the School was placed in the hands of Mr. Aram Boolghoorjian who has a record of distinguished service to the Armenian Evangelical School system in Lebanon both as a capable teacher and an outstanding principal. Currently, the School has an enrollment of approximately 200 students and operates out of rented facilities of a Presbyterian Church on Colfax Avenue in North Hollywood, CA.

ARTHUR DADIAN RAISES DONATIONS TO AMAA TO \$90,000

Mr. Arthur Dadian of Bethesda, Maryland, recently added \$50,000 more to raise his generous donations to ninety thousand (\$90,000). In explaining the reason for this donation, Mr. Dadian stated: "The almost daily news of human suffering in Lebanon is a constant reminder to me of the unfortunate predicament of our people. It all makes me want to be helpful."

Mr. Dadian, who has designated his gift for relief aid for Lebanon, is a compassionate Armenian whose interest in the well-being of our people has motivated him to contribute generously to the AMAA and other Armenian organizations and charitable causes. His previous contributions to the AMAA included two substantial donations of \$15,000 and \$25,000 with which the Ar-

thur Dadian Educational and the Arthur Dadian Child Education Sponsorship Fund were established respectively. Pursuant to a special agreement with the AMAA Board of Directors, these two funds will be consolidated and augmented by his recent gift of \$50,000 to set up the *Arthur H. Dadian Independently Investable Endowment Fund* which totals \$90,000. The annual

income from this major fund will continue to provide in greater measure for the schooling of underprivileged children, the education of deserving college students in the U.S. and the relief needs of Armenians in Lebanon.

Mr. Dadian has actively brought the basic values of Armenian culture to the attention of Americans in noteworthy and creative ways. He was the chairman of a committee of concerned Armenians in Washington that established the Armenian Collection of the Library of Congress as a separate section and added to the Library's collection, hoping to build it into a center for Armenian studies. It was upon Mr. Dadian's suggestion and tireless efforts that a statue of *Sourp Krikor Loussavorich* (Saint Gregory The Illuminator) was erected and installed in the Washington Cathedral.

A compassionate Armenian and an exemplary U.S. citizen, Mr. Dadian rightfully merits the commendation and respect of



Mr. Arthur Dadian being greeted by Vice President and Mrs. George Bush at a dinner held in the Washington, D.C. home of the Vice President

Armenians and non-Armenians alike. But more importantly, his generosity and rare humane qualities, as evidenced by his

deep commitment and liberal contributions to worthy causes, present an inspiring example for others to follow.

MR. AND MRS. ALBERT KOUNDAKJIAN MEMORIALIZE PARENTS WITH ENDOWMENT FUND

Mr. and Mrs. Albert Koundakjian of Riverdale, N.Y., long-time generous supporters of the AMAA, recently established an Endowment Fund with the AMAA in loving memory of their parents, the Rev. Dikran and Yester Koundakjian and Haroutune and Salihe Berejiklian. The Fund, which now has an invested principal of \$16,500.00, is known as The Rev. Dikran and Yester Koundakjian and Haroutune and Salihe Berejiklian Endowment Fund and its income will be used for the training of ministerial candidates in the United States and/or overseas. Mr. and Mrs. Koundakjian have indicated that in the event such candidates are not available, the income of the Fund could be used for other AMAA projects at the discretion of the Board of Directors.

Albert Koundakjian's grandfather, the Rev. Hagop Koundakjian, was destined to become the administrative patriarch of the Koundakjian clan. But, desirous of having an education, he joined the American missionaries and subsequently entered the Marash Seminary. After his graduation in 1890, he served as the pastor of the Armenian Evangelical Churches in the Amanos area, alternating be-

tween the Hasan-Beyli and Beylan Churches. He was killed along with other Armenian Evangelical leaders in 1909 while traveling to Adana for the convention of the Union of the Armenian Evangelical Churches of Cilicia. All the delegates at the conference were burned in the church which was set on fire for the purpose of destroying the entire leadership. The Rev. Koundakjian, who was outside the church where the conference was being held, was shot by the Turks. Albert's father, the Rev. Dikran, was the son of the Rev. Hagop Koundakjian. The Rev. Dikran, after graduating from seminary, became the well-liked and courageous pastor of the Armenian Evangelical Church of Kessab, who initiated the construction of the monumental sanctuary of the Kessab Church in 1910. He was deported with his congregation in 1915. Throughout the exile, he faithfully ministered to the various needs of his people. After contracting typhus, he died at the age of 36 in 1916.

Mrs. Yester Koundakjian's parents, Haroutune and Salihe Berejiklian, were lay Christian leaders in their church. The beneficiaries of the educational and spiritual work of their contemporary mis-



Mr. & Mrs. Albert Koundakjian

sionaries, they rendered important services to their communities.

The Fund established by Mr. and Mrs. Koundakjian represents a loving tribute to their parents. It also ensures the lasting remembrance of the Koundakjians and Berejiklians who had served Armenian evangelical causes with so much devotion and love. However, the main reason for the establishment of the Fund, as revealed by Mr. and Mrs. Koundakjian, is their deep sense of gratitude for the grace poured upon them by the Armenian Evangelical Reformation.

CYPRUS WELCOMES U.S., SYRIAN AND LEBANESE DELEGATES

The last time the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) had a face-to-face communication with the leaders of the overseas mission field was in 1980. Providentially, God opened up just two weeks for intense communication, conferences and visits to all the projects supported by the AMAA. Just before the visitation and soon after, serious fightings occurred. Our two-week period of visitation was a period of calm as though after a storm.

The Board of Directors were concerned that we had lost direct communication with the leadership and voted to hold a conference with the participation of leaders from Syria, Lebanon and the United States. Five U.S., five Syria and twelve Lebanon participants met in the comfortable Sandy Beach Hotel in Larnaca from Sept. 12-16 and deliberated upon many subjects that concerned all parties. The Syria and Lebanon delegates provided important statistics on the schools, churches, the community and on the many projects, such as, clinics, relief organizations, Social Action Committees and special problems.

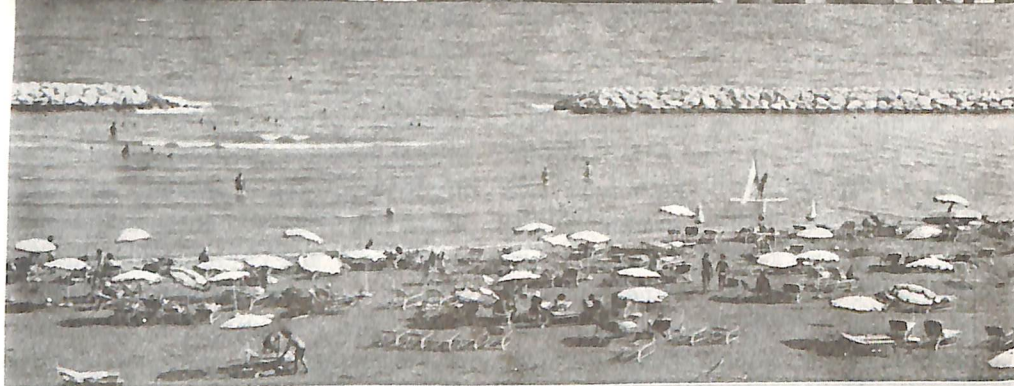
The desire of the AMAA Board of Directors was not only to review business, but also to provide a period of calm to the leaders who are constantly under the threat of bombardment, fighting and destruction. The Board also intended to assure our brethren in turmoil that we were and would continue to be supportive of them in their work. From all the testimonies we have following the conference, we know they were strengthened, comforted and encouraged.

Our brethren in Lebanon and Syria are determined to hold the fort and despite the disadvantageous situations, will continue to do their utmost to make Christ visible in lands where hatred seems to prevail.

Our brethren are doing unusually good work and we came back from the conference determined that we must do even more than we have been able to do in the past. They in turn encouraged us by promising to improve their accountability, to consolidate the budget of the schools if possible, to find AMAA workers in the field, to update the property holdings, to

work towards the Armenian Evangelical World Council needs, to recruit ministerial trainees and to provide regular stipend for families in need. For instance, 100 families have been scheduled to receive stipends of 75 LL each month. The Board of Directors approved this relief plan unreservedly in the belief that the Social Action Committee had well evaluated needs and the recipients were truly deserving.

We would like to ask our constituency to keep our brothers and sisters in Lebanon in their prayers.



Top to bottom: Hotel bulletin board announcing the Joint Conference; the delegates and six guests who participated in the Joint Conference; the beach at the Sandy Beach Hotel in Larnaca; a hill on the Turkish-Greek dividing line on which the Turkish Army maintains one of its many observation posts.

AMAA SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE AWARDS A TOTAL OF \$137,000

At the beginning of the current 1985-86 academic year, the AMAA Scholarship Committee, chaired by Dr. John Keuhnelian, was able to make substantial scholarship grants and interest-free loans to 146 full-time qualified students attending colleges, universities or seminaries in the United States. The total amount awarded was \$137,500 of which \$84,050 were outright grants and \$53,450 were interest-free loans.

As in previous years, this scholarship assistance was provided from the income of the following Trust and Endowment Funds:

Stephen Philibosian Endowment Fund (61 students); Augustine and Vergine Badeer Fund (7); Arthur Dadian Educational Fund (4); Dr. James Mouradian Medical Scholarship Fund (3); Dr. Jacob Hekemian Medical Loan Fund (5); Nerses and Arpine Aynilian Trust Fund (1); Anne G. Halford Mem'l Scholarship Fund (1); Edward and Lucy Janjigian Trust Fund (1); George and Alice Philibosian Family Fund (1); L. and M. Giridlian Fund (1); S. and E. Hekemian Family Endowment Fund (46); James Koundakjian Memorial Fund (1); John G. Kazanjian Trust Fund (3); Jedidian Educational Fund (5); Angele Bedrossian Hancock Fund (2); Telfeyan Evangelical Fund (5); Dicran and Flora Sarkisian Endowment Fund (3); Altoon and Sarra Saprichian Fund (3); Raymond and Marie Nahigian Fund (2); Puzant and Angele Gulesserian Trust Fund (1); Charles M. Garabedian Fund (1); Mr. and Mrs. Khacher and Puzant Guzelimian Fund (1).

Among this year's beneficiaries of our Scholarship Program were the following seminary students who are preparing for the Christian ministry in different theological institutions in the U.S. and overseas:

Samuel Agulian, Fuller Theol. Seminary, Pasadena, CA; Timothy Avazian, Fuller Seminary, CA; Nerses Balabanian, Near East School of Theol., Beirut, Lebanon; Avedis Bonyakrian, Near East School of Theol., Beirut, Lebanon; Limi Cholakian, Near East

School of Theol., Beirut, Lebanon; Joan A. Hensleit, Mennonite Breth. Bible Seminary, Fresno, CA; Arda Hounanian, Harvard Divinity School, Cambridge, MA; David Maghakian, Pittsburgh Theol. Seminary, Pittsburgh, PA; Keghouhi Malakian, Armenian Bible College, Pasadena, CA; Susan Minassian, Lancaster Theol. Seminary, Lancaster, PA; Carol Sarian, Andover Newton Theol. Seminary, Andover, MA; Daniel Sarian, Dallas Theol. Seminary, Dallas, TX; Hilda Shahinian, Princeton Theol. Seminary, Princeton, NJ.

The scholarship awards of these students were provided from the income of the following funds:

AMAA Theological Funds; Prof. Lootfi Levonian Fund; Mr. and Mrs. D.G. Kazarian Fund; Hagop and Esther Dohanian Family Fund; Ezras and Nellie Tellalian Fund; Eugene Clemence Memorial Fund; The Rev. A.A. Bedikian Theol. School Fund; Paul and Arousiag Iskiyan Theol. Fund; Avedis and Parantzem Kezlarian Fund; Karekin Kaboolian Fund; Harry and Catherine Apelian Mem'l Fund; S.K. / G.T. Emurian-Arsen Gulian Fund; Leon and Matilda Giridlian Fund; Makanian Missionary Fund.

We are delighted that our Scholarship Program is serving an ever-increasing number of needy and qualified students. We are especially grateful to those benefactors and their families as well as AMAA members and friends who have established and continue to augment the scholarship funds. It is the generosity of these caring members of the AMAA that enable us to assist in the education of able youth as well as in the training of our future church and community leaders.

Scholarship application forms for the 1986-87 school year will be released as of January 1, 1986. Requests for the forms must be made **in writing and by the applicants themselves**, and completed application forms must reach the AMAA Headquarters before May 15 in order to qualify for Committee consideration. Former recipients must reapply each year.

AMAA JAMES G. JAMESON ESSAY CONTEST

The Armenian Missionary Association of America is pleased to announce the opening of the James G. Jameson Essay Contest on any aspect of Armenian heritage such as literature, language, culture, geography, economy, history and religion. The contest is open to any full Armenian or part Armenian between the ages of 15 to 25. Unpublished entries only will be accepted until April 30, 1986. The winner of the contest, if any, will be awarded a prize of \$200.

The essay should be written in English and have a length of 1,000 to 2,000 words. A contestant is allowed no more than one entry in any year, and no more than one member of a family may receive an award in a five-year period. If no submitted essay is considered sufficiently meritorious during any year, an award will not be granted that year.

A panel of up to three competent judges will evaluate contest entries. An award will be based on style, language, accuracy of facts, extent of research and magnitude of helpfulness of the essay to Armenian youth.

The purpose of the contest is to stimulate a desire in Armenian youth to broaden the knowledge and understanding of its traditional background and cultural heritage.

The Armenian Missionary Association is hopeful that there will be many contestants and urges them to submit their essays as soon as possible.

Entries and/or inquiries should be directed to:

James G. Jameson Essay Contest
Armenian Missionary Association of America
140 Forest Ave.
Paramus, NJ 07652

HAIGAZIAN COLLEGE OPENS BRANCH IN EAST BEIRUT



The Administrative Dean of Haigazian College, Miss Wilma Tcholakian (third from right), flanked by the President, Officers and Board Members of the AMAA as well as faithful supporters of the College.

Pursuant to the recommendation of the Boards of Trustees and Managers of Haigazian College and upon the approval of the Board of Directors of the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) and the Union of the Armenian Evangelical Churches of the Near East (UAECNE) a Branch was opened in East Beirut in the beginning of the current academic year. The reasons for the opening of the Haigazian College East Branch were enumerated by a member of the Board of Managers as follows:

1. Armenian students living in East Beirut do not wish to risk their lives crossing the green line to attend classes in West Beirut;
2. The College will have greater opportunities to serve the Armenian community by organizing extracurricular activities for the Armenian public;
3. The College will have a better chance to attract graduates of the Armenian high schools, most of which are located in East Beirut.

The Branch in East Beirut, which now operates out of the Bethany-Mesjian School building in the Mar Mekhael area, is administered by Miss Wilma Tcholakian, the Administrative Dean of the College. She will divide her time between the Branch and the main campus of the College in West Beirut. The opening of the Branch will not affect the operation of the main College in West Beirut where the

normal teaching program continues. The Managers plan to maintain the College at its present location on Rue Mexique.

Enrollment at the College in West Beirut is 86 of which 20 are Armenians. At the East Beirut Branch, enrollment is 133, 129 being Armenians.

ENCOURAGING NEWS FROM ARMENIAN EVANGELICALS IN YEREVAN

Last September, by the encouragement and support of the AMAA, The Rev. Yessayi Sarmazian, Pastor of the Armenian Evangelical Church of Toronto, Canada, visited Armenia and had an extended time of fellowship with our Armenian Evangelical brethren in Yerevan. Upon his return, The Rev. Sarmazian kindly shared with us his experiences which he described as "the most tremendous and exciting experience of my whole pastoral life." Rev. Sarmazian, who had the opportunity to visit the brethren of the Armenian Evangelical Baptist Church of Yerevan, said that he was given full freedom to conduct all the regular services of the church, both on Sundays and weekdays. On Sundays, the church meets for worship at 11:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. Well over 400 persons attend these services regularly. The weekday meetings of the church are held on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 6:00 p.m., and the average number of participants

in each meeting is around 150.

The Rev. Sarmazian reported that, the brethren in Armenia are "in good hope and spirit, steadfast in their hope, awaiting anxiously to join the Lord in His eternal glory." He further stated, "I was personally blessed during my 14 days of fellowship with our brethren in Yerevan, and I hope, I too was a blessing to them by the grace of God."

We praise the Lord for this opportunity of being apprised of the ongoing Christian witness of our brethren in Yerevan who certainly covet our prayers, fellowship, spiritual support and fraternal love.

DR. SEMAAN IS NEW PRESIDENT OF NEST

The Board of Managers of the Near East School of Theology (NEST) elected The Rev. Dr. Wanis A. Semaan for a term of five years as President of the School. Dr. Semaan, an ordained minister of the National Evangelical Synod of Syria and Lebanon, has been on the faculty of the School since October 1970.

This year, the NEST has six full-time Armenian students who are preparing to serve the Union of the Armenian Evangelical Churches in the Near East as pastors and Christian workers. The full expenses of three of these students are undertaken by the AMAA.

The NEST is one of the best known Protestant theological institutions in the Middle East. It is jointly owned and operated by the Union of Armenian Evangelical Churches of the Near East, and four other local Protestant denominations as well as The Program Agency of the United Presbyterian Church in the U.S. and the United Church Board for World Ministries. The Armenian Evangelical churches have played a vital part in the life of the School which was formed in 1932 by the Union of the School for Religious Workers in Beirut and the School of Religion in Athens. Prof. Loutfi Levonian, and more recently, The Rev. Hovhannes P. Aharonian, have been the most prominent leaders of the School. Especially during the presidency of The Rev. Aharonian the School grew remarkably, acquiring its new and modern facility near the

American University of Beirut and emerging as an internationally recognized institution of theological learning which extends its services to such areas beyond the Middle East as Ethiopia, Sudan, Kenya, Nigeria, Angola, India and Indonesia.

DAILY VACATION BIBLE SCHOOLS IN LEBANON AND SYRIA

One of AMAA's important support projects in the field of Child Evangelism is the Daily Vacation Bible Schools Program of the Christian Endeavor Union of Syria and Lebanon. These schools, which are led by Christian Endeavor youth volunteers, not only get the children off the streets during the summer, but also provide them the opportunity of learning more about our Christian faith and grow in the knowledge of the Word of God.

Reports received from the leaders of the Christian Endeavor Union indicate that during the Month of July 1985, Daily Vacation Bible Schools were held in Beirut and Aleppo with a combined attendance of well over 120 children. The picture below depicts children attending DVBS at the First Armenian Evangelical Church of Beirut, Lebanon.

We are grateful to the VBS, Inc. and its President, Edward M. K. Murray, whose support makes it possible for us to encourage this vital Child Evangelism ministry in the Middle East.



The congregation of the Armenian Evangelical Church of Buenos Aires during worship.

BUENAS NOVAS FROM BUENOS AIRES

In a recent letter addressed to the Field Director, The Rev. Jose Balian of Buenos Aires, Argentina writes, "We just returned from Sao Paulo, Brazil where we had wonderful revival meetings every night for two consecutive weeks. We praise the Lord for the marvelous way in which the Holy Spirit touched the hearts of people who responded to our call for repentance and accepted Jesus Christ as their savior."

The Rev. Jose Balian, who recently led a series of well attended and highly successful Evangelistic Meetings in the Armenian community of Los Angeles, is the Pastor of the Holy Trinity Armenian Evangelical Congregational Church of Buenos Aires, Argentina. He is a dynamic and able pastor and also a well known and popular evangelist who is frequently invited to lead evangelistic and revival meetings in different parts of

South America. In addition to his pastoral duties and evangelistic engagements, The Rev. Balian serves the cause of the Gospel as the representative of the Radio Bible Class and The Hour of the Temple ministries in South America.

SHELLS EXPLODE NEAR THE FRIST ARMENIAN CHURCH AND HAIGAZIAN COLLEGE IN BEIRUT

During the most recent round of fierce street fightings in West Beirut, a number of shells exploded on the grounds of the First Armenian Evangelical Church and the adjacent campuses of Haigazian and the Armenian Evangelical Colleges on Rue Mexique. We praise God that none of the students, faculty and people were hurt. The explosions shattered the windows in the Church and college buildings, including the home of The Rev. Hovhannes Karjian, Pastor of the First Church. Since the incident, the Karjians have moved to a safer apartment in the neighborhood where the homes of other Armenian families are located.

Our pastors, social workers, school principals and teachers in Lebanon, are faithfully persisting in their respective ministries. But, amid the turmoil and hardship caused by the 11-year-old war in the country, they often feel isolated and crippled in their endeavors. In the face of their growing difficulties and needs, we, at the AMAA, have made it a priority to help them by all possible means. We kindly appeal to our members and compatriots to join us in upholding them through our prayers, loving concern and financial support.

THE ARMENIAN EVANGELICAL CHURCH OF NEW YORK CELEBRATES ITS 90TH ANNIVERSARY

The Armenian Evangelical Church of New York, NY, celebrated the 90th Anniversary of its founding with a gala banquet on the evening of November 2, 1985, at the Hilton Hotel in New York City. Well over 300 members and friends of the Church as well as honored guests representing various Armenian and American Churches attended the event which was referred to as "A Celebration of a Grand Idea" by Master of Ceremonies, Albert Momjian, Esq. of Huntington Valley, PA. The evening was marked with an elaborate program which included: invocation by The Rev. Senekerim Sulahian, the Pastor Emeritus of the Church; recitation by Mrs. Shake Kadehjian; a tribute to The Rev. A. A. Bedikian by The Rev. Moses B. Janbazian; and greetings by a number of clergy and layman guests that included The Rev. Daniel Albarian, the current pastor of the Church; The Rev. Dr. Peter Doghramji, the Moderator of the AEUNA; Congressman William Green of New York; Mr. Archie Cherkezian; Archbishop Mesrob Ashjian and Rev. Fr. Arten Ashjian.

Two of the main highlights of the evening were the performance of the American Boychoir and the keynote address of Dr. Vartan Gregorian, the President and Chief Executive of the New York Public Library. Dr. Gregorian spoke on the outstanding contributions of the Armenian Evangelical Movement to Armenian culture, which, he stated, is the basis of solidarity of the Armenian people. In an eloquent speech, he highlighted the unique role of the Armenian Evangelical Church in the fields of translating the classics, spreading the modern Armenian language, reviving the missionary spirit of the Armenian people, and educating Armenian youth. Dr. Gregorian praised the unifying spirit of the Armenian Evangelical Church and stated that Armenian Evangelicals get involved in and support all Armenian events regardless of the political or denominational coloring of the organizers.

The celebration was concluded with the Church Moderator, Dr. H. Philip Hovnanian, expressing thanks to the Banquet Committee members and co-chairmen Mrs. Hasmig Yankelovich and Mrs. Hilda Melconian whose hard labors had made the evening a time of real fellowship, joy and celebration.

THE REV. PETER DOGHGRAMJI INSTALLED AS CONFERENCE MINISTER OF UCC



The Rev. Dr. Peter B. Doghramji

The Rev. Dr. Peter D. Doghramji, an ex-officio Board Member of the AMAA and the Moderator of the Armenian Evangelical Union of North America (AEUNA), was officially installed as the Conference Minister and President of the Pennsylvania South-east Conference of the United Church of Christ (UCC) on Sunday, October 27, 1985 at the Church of the Good Shepherd in Boyertown, PA. A large number of National and regional UCC leaders participated in the Installation Service which was attended by more than 600 clergy and lay members from churches of the Conference. Dr. Doghramji was elected as Conference Minister on May 3, 1985 by the clergy and lay delegates of the congregations of the Southeast Conference. In his new position, Dr. Doghramji becomes the spiritual leader and the Chief executive of the 217 UCC congregations in the seven Pennsylvania counties in and around Philadelphia. He is the first Armenian and the first son of foreign missions to be elected Chief executive of any of the 39 Conferences of the UCC.

The President, the Board of Directors, and the executive staff of the AMAA join in extending warmest congratulations to Dr. Doghramji, wishing him a fulfilling and fruitful ministry through his new office.

GEORGE PHILIBOSIAN ELECTED CHAIRMAN OF AGBU CENTRAL COMMITTEE



Mr. George Philibosian

Mr. George Philibosian of Fort Lee, NJ, a benefactor and former president and Board member of the AMAA, was recently elected as the Chairman of the AGBU Central Committee of America. Mr. Philibosian assumes this important position as a proven community leader who has many years of rich experience gained in the course of implementing his life-long, deep commitment to Armenian religious, civic and charitable organizations. He was president of the Armenian Missionary Association of America for five terms; a Moderator of the Armenian Evangelical Churches of North America, a past Commander of the Knights of Vartan brotherhood, a past Fellow Trustee of the Armenian Assembly, and a member of the Ecumenical Committee of the Armenian Churches and other important committees within the Diocese of the Armenian Church. He has served as an ordained Elder of the Armenian Presbyterian Church, Paramus, NJ, for more than 20 years.

The AMAA family joins in extending warmest congratulations to Mr. Philibosian and much personal fulfillment

THE REV. JOHN MOKKOSIAN APPOINTED YOUTH MINISTER



The Rev. John Mokkaosian

The Rev. John Mokkaosian was called to the newly created position of Youth Minister to the Armenian Evangelical Churches of Eastern States and Canada. The Rev. Mokkaosian assumed his duties on November 1, 1985 after resigning from his pastoral ministry at the Ararat Armenian Congregational Church of Salem. The Rev. Mokkaosian's duties as Youth Minister will involve planning, coordinating and supervising the activities of Armenian Evangelical Youth Fellowship groups under the direction of the Board of Directors of the Armenian Evangelical Churches of North America (AEUNA). He will maintain his office in his home in Salem, N.H.

Our heartiest congratulations to The Rev. Mokkaosian and best wishes for a successful ministry among our youth on the East Coast.

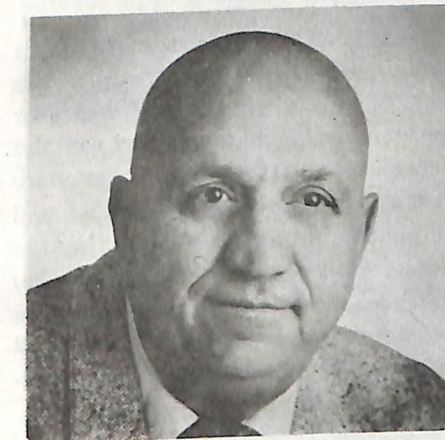
NAYIR KARJIAN ORDAINED INTO THE CHRISTIAN MINISTRY

On Sunday, December 1, 1985, Miss Nayiri Karjian was ordained into the Christian Ministry by the Lancaster Association of the Penn Central Conference of the United Church of Christ. The Ordination and the Installation Service was held at the Bethany United Church of Ephrata, PA, where The Rev. Karjian has been serving as Assistant pastor since June, 1985. The Rev. Karjian, the daughter of The Rev. Hovhannes N. Karjian of Beirut, Lebanon, is a graduate of the Near East School of Theology and Lancaster Theol.

Seminary. She is one of the few Armenian Evangelical female seminary graduates who have been ordained into the Christian Ministry.

Warmest congratulations to Nayiri, and prayerful best wishes for a happy and fruitful ministry in and through the Church of Jesus Christ.

JAMES E. ATTARIAN ELECTED PRESIDENT OF OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL



Mr. James E. Attarian

James E. Attarian of Woodland Hills, CA, assumed the duties of President of Optimist International on October 1, 1985. Mr. Attarian, the President of Jayson Realty Co. of Woodland Hills, was elected President-Elect of the organization at its Annual Convention in July, 1984. He will serve as International President for a one-year term, ending in October, 1986.

Prior to his election to the highest office in the Optimist International, he had served the Optimist International as Downtown Wilshire Club's President, International Governor of the Pacific South West District, and Chairman of several international level committees.

Optimist International is an Association of over 4,000 Optimist clubs, with a total membership of over 155,000 in the United States and Canada. The members of these clubs perform a variety of volunteer community services each year. The motto of the organization is, "Friend of Youth."

Mr. Attarian, an assiduous reader of the Bible, is a practical christian who believes that knowledge of the Word of

God, faith and assurance of salvation are meaningless if they are not translated into christian deeds. This belief has led him and his wife, Virginia, to involve themselves in a number of christian and charitable causes among which, the missionary work of the AMAA has always had a special place in their hearts. Mr. and Mrs. Attarian, life members and endowed founders of AMAA, are long-time generous supporters of our missionary endeavors, especially in the fields of Child Education and Ministers' Retirement Fund Program.

ANNA CHAGHATZBANIAN MILLER HONORED IN BOSTON



Mrs. Anna (Chaghatzbanian) Miller

Mrs. Anna Chaghatzbanian Miller, a Life Member of the AMAA, was recognized at a special dinner organized by the AGBU Women's Auxiliaries of Greater Boston on May 9, 1985. Mrs. Miller, who was honored as "Mother of the Year," was cited for her devotion to her family as well as for her lifelong selfless services to the local Armenian religious and charitable organizations.

Mrs. Miller, a devoted Christian lady, is the daughter of the late Krikor Der Mateosian of Watertown, MA, founder of the United Christian Charities, a Boston-based foundation which aids charitable causes. Mrs. Miller's own loving concern for our people has led her over the years to contribute generously to the missionary outreach of the AMAA. She is an AMAA Endowed Funder as well as a faithful supporter of our Child Education Sponsorship ministry. We heartily congratulate Mrs. Miller for the tribute she richly deserves.

PROFESSOR SOUREN AND ALICE BABIKIAN MARK 30TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY



Professor & Mrs. Souren Babikian

Professor Souren and Alice Babikian of Los Angeles, CA. recently marked their 30th wedding anniversary with an extended vacation in California. Both Souren and Alice are Life Members and strong believers in the missionary outreach of the AMAA.

Alice, who was born in Numbeej, Syria, moved to Teheran with her family before coming to the United States in 1947 with her two sisters and brother, Nazareth. In 1955, she married Prof. Babikian who had come to California to join the faculty of the Los Angeles City College as Professor of Mathematics. Since that time, the couple have resided in Los Angeles where Professor Babikian has had an illustrious teaching career from which he recently retired.

Professor Babikian was born in Aintab Turkey. After graduation from Aleppo College in 1933, he prepared for the Honors Degree Course in Mathematics of London University. Following a 17-year (1936-1953) teaching career in local high schools and at Aleppo College, he enrolled at the Macalester College in St. Paul, Minn. from where he earned his Bachelor's and Master's degrees. From 1956 to 1983 he taught mathematics at the Los Angeles City College. On retirement in 1983, Los Angeles City College awarded him a Certificate of Appreciation plaque in recognition of his distinguished services to the College.

Professor Babikian's life represents the

success story of an Armenian who overcame enormous difficulties to achieve his goal.

The guiding principle in Professor Babikian's teaching career has been the famous quotation from Francis Bacon: "I hold every man a debtor to his profession, from the which as men of course do seek to receive countenance and profit, so ought they of duty to endeavor thereunto." (Each man owes something to his profession from which he naturally expects to earn a living; he should therefore try to be helpful to his profession by way of compensation).

Because of his complete devotion to mathematics and his dedication to the teaching of mathematics, Professor Babikian has taught the subject with the enthusiasm and passion of a missionary preaching the Gospel to "the heathen and the pagan." His former students both at Aleppo College and Los Angeles City College, attest to this. According to statistics taken from the testimony of his former students, his teaching and personality have impressed them most.

Professor Babikian is a scholar of mathematics. His profession is also his hobby. Consequently, he has been abreast of all the new developments in the field of college mathematics even after his retirement and built a private library of scholarly and classical books on mathematics which is unique and outstanding. Both European and American professors of mathematics attest to this after seeing his magnificent library.

Professor Babikian has made an integral part of his teaching career the development of the character of his students. He has shown special interest not only to impart mathematical knowledge to his students, but also to develop and instill sound moral and ethical principles in his students even at the college level. For this, many of his former successful students with professional accomplishments have acknowledged with gratitude their moral indebtedness. If there is a message that he could leave to the younger generation by way of an example, he would say: "Do not be disappointed due to economic difficulties, hardships and political turmoils (Lebanon, for instance), but strive to go forward, surmount existing vicissitudes and ultimately succeed."

We extend our heartiest congratulations to Professor Souren and Mrs. Alice Babikian on their 30th wedding anniversary and best wishes for many more years of health and happiness together.

MARY MEHAGIAN CONTINUES HER CHARITABLE EFFORTS



Mrs. Mary Mehagian pictured with her late husband, A. Stephen Mehagian

The Arizona Republic recently featured a long article on Mrs. Mary Mehagian of Phoenix, AZ, the widow of the late benefactor, Stephen Mehagian, and the daughter of the late Armenag Haigazian in whose memory Haigazian College of Beirut was named.

The Arizona Republic, touched by the efforts of Mrs. Mehagian to raise funds for the building of an Armenian Apostolic Church, took off with a detailed story of the Mehagians from their sojourn from Turkey to the United States as immigrants to their successful marriage, business life and charitable endeavors in Phoenix.

The Mehagian family, who have a special fund of close to \$300,000 designated for Haigazian College, continue to serve the causes of the College. Both Mrs. Mehagian and her son, Mr. Arthur Mehagian, serve on the Board of Trustees of the College and are strong believers and supporters of the missionary endeavors of the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA).

Born in Konia (Iconium of ancient Turkey) in 1903, Mrs. Mehagian was the eldest of six daughters of Yale University trained Armenag Haigazian who was President of Jenanian (College) Institute.

He died during the period of the Armenian Genocide. After she finally came to the United States, and as chance would have it, she married A. Stephen Mehagian in New York in 1924, who knew her in Turkey when she was only eight years old. They subsequently moved to San Francisco and from thence to Phoenix where they ultimately opened the Mehagian Furniture Galleries.

Mrs. Mehagian has always been actively involved in many charities which include the AMAA, AGBU, Goodwill Industries, YMCA, Rotary, Phoenix Symphony Guild, and just lately, helping in the building of a traditional Armenian Apostolic Church. "I don't think I would be a member of the Orthodox Church she explained, "but I would help the members build one. I go to a Protestant Church myself," she said.

Thanks for making us evangelicals proud of you, Mrs. Mehagian.

ERMANCE REJEBIAN: A SUCCESSFUL CAREER IN THE UNIQUE ART OF BOOK REVIEWING

The Dallas Morning News recently featured a lengthy article on Mrs. Ermance Rejebian of Dallas, TX, a life-long member of the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) and the aunt of Mrs. Joyce Stein, Chairman of the Stephen Philibosian Foundation and an ex-officio member of the AMAA Board of Directors. The article presented the success story of Mrs. Rejebian's Book Reviewing career and paid tribute to her outstanding talent in the unique art of book reviewing.

Of the approximately 30 Dallas people—all women—who review books in homes and meeting halls, Rejebian is one of a handful who have had clubs established just for their reviews. Thirty-nine Rejebian book review clubs—including five in Fort Worth, one in Grapevine, one in Mineral Wells, and one in Houston that has 1,500 members—have been set up by people who want to hear her reviews. Rejebian's specialties are the classics, historical works and biographies. Her reviews are meant for education and edification.

Rejebian began book reviewing in the



Mrs. Ermance Rejebian

1930s after hearing a review of a book called *The Forty Days of Musa Dagh*. It told the story of 1.5 million Armenians who died defying a Turkish attempt to drive them into the desert.

Rejebian, who left Turkey when she was 13, was unhappy with the presentation. The reviewer had failed to put the book into historical context, she believed.

Mrs. Rejebian will soon complete a review of *The Forty Days of Musa Dagh* for the Literary Digest which has taped an entire library of her reviews. The taped review will be a masterpiece, and many people would rather hear the story of the heroic episode than read it. Each tape will be sold for \$13.95 of which 60% will go to the Library Digest and 40% to Mrs. Rejebian. With exceeding generosity she has donated her share of the profits to the AMAA.

ARTHUR AND GLADYS MALIAN CELEBRATE 50TH ANNIVERSARY

A very elegant gathering for the celebration of the 50th Wedding Anniversary of Arthur and Gladys Malian was held on April 6, 1985 at the Birchwood Manor in Whippany, New Jersey. Planned by their children, Arthur and his wife, Hillis; Joyce and her husband, Steven; and Sharon and their families, the party began in the early evening and was attended by close relatives and friends from Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey, and California.



Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Malian

A heartwarming speech was given by their son, Arthur, followed by a lovely dinner which provided a unique opportunity of reunion and fellowship for family and relatives who celebrated a special anniversary for two special people.

MR. AND MRS. ANDY LOUSSARARIAN CELEBRATE SILVER WEDDING ANNIVERSARY



Mr. & Mrs. Andy Loussararian

Mr. Andy and Mrs. Betty Loussararian of Scarborough, Canada, celebrated their 25th Wedding Anniversary on Friday, June 21, 1985 at the AGBU Center in Toronto, Canada. Organized by their sons, Ed and Paul, the celebration was attended by approximately 65 Armenian and Canadian friends of the couple. Following dinner, family members and friends presented a special program which included music, recitations, testimonies as well as a slide presentation depicting the lives of Mr. and Mrs. Loussararian from their childhood on.

Congratulations to our dear friends, and best wishes for many more years of happy and blessed life together.

որդիններուն, ինչպէս նաեւ այլ միջոցներով որոնք կրնան անձանթ եւ անհասկնալի ըլլալ մեր կողմէ: Սակայն եթէ մեր կեանքերը ուղղուած են դէպի վեր, վստահաբար պիտի լսենք թէ ան ինչ բանի մեզ կը կանչէ:

Մենք մեզ անկատար կը գտնենք այս վեհ կոչումին պատասխանելու եւ գործելու, մանաւանդ երբ կը կարդանք Ա. Տիմ. Գ. 1-7 եւ Տիմոս Ա. 5-9 հատուածները, որոնք կը խօսին եկեղեցական առաջնորդին կենցաղին ու վարքին մասին: Ասով մէկտեղ, գիտակից ենք թէ ինչ որ Աստուած մեզի տուած է իր փառքին համար գործածելու, մենք չենք կրնար անյարմար եւ անկատար նկատել, այլ զարգացնելու ենք զանոնք ծառայութեան կեանքի մէջ:

Ասոր համար է որ գոնէ երեք տեսակի պատրաստութեան պէտք ունինք.

1. Առօրեայ հաստատ մտերմութիւն եւ հաղորդակցութիւն Աստուծոյ հետ մեր Փրկչին Յիսուս Քրիստոսի միջոցով: Ան է որ մեզ կը մեծցնէ մեր հաւատքին մէջ, կը քննէ ու կը մաքրէ իր խօսքին միջոցով եւ Ս. Հոգիին առաջնորդութեամբ: Այս տեսակի մտերմութեան մէջ է որ կը խօսինք Աստուծոյ հետ եւ իր առջեւ խոնարհելով առիթ կու տանք նաեւ որ ինք ալ մեզի խօսի:

2. Մասնագիտական դասընթացքներու, այսինքն աստուածաբանական ուսմանց հետեւիլ՝ Աստուածաշունչ Մատեանին մօտէն ծանօթանալու, զայն հասկնալու եւ բացատրելու՝ բարի լուրը հռչակելու համար, եկեղեցիին կազմութեան եւ պատմութեան ծանօթանալու, սուրբ-գրային լեզուներ սորվելու (եբրայերէն, յունարէն), եւ զարգանալու այն բոլոր գիտութիւններուն մէջ որոնք կ'օգնեն մեզի որ լաւագոյնով ծառայենք Քրիստոսի եւ եկեղեցիին:

3. Ուսանողական տարիներու ընթացքին դաշտին մէջ գործել մասնակի ժամանակով որպէսզի մօտէն ճանչնանք մեր ծառայութեան տեսակը, առաջնորդութեան պարզեւր զարգացնենք, գտնենք այն մարզերը որոնց մէջ լաւագոյն կերպով կրնանք ծառայել, եւ ծանօթանանք այն ժողովուրդին որուն հետ պիտի գտնուինք մեր ծառայութեան ընթացքին:

Ստորեւ կը ներկայացնենք Մերձաւոր Արեւելքի Աստուածաբանական Դպրոցի այն աշակերտները որոնք Մ. Ա. Հ. Ա. Ե. Միութեան Կեդրոնական Մարմնի հոգա-ծութեան եւ հսկողութեան տակ կը պատրաստուին ծառայելու Հայ Աւետարանական եկեղեցիին:

Մագիստրոս Աստուածաբանական

Աւետիս Պոյնտեան կը պատկանի Պէյրութի Հայ Աւետ. Էմմանուէլ եկեղեցիին: Ուսումը կ'աւարտէ 1985-86 տարեշրջանին:

Փօլ Հայտոսեան կը պատկանի Պէյրութի Էշրէֆիէի Հայ Աւետ. եկեղեցիին: 1985-86 իր ուսման նախափեր-ջին տարին է:

Պշարա եւ Հուրի Մուսա-Օղլի: Այս զոյգը կը պատկանի Հալէպի Քրիստոսի եկեղեցիին: Պշարան Մագիստրոս Աստուածաբանութեան ծրագրին առաջին տարուան ուսանող է: Հուրին Քրիստոնէական Դաստիարակու-թեան Մագիստրոսի ծրագրին չսկսած կը հետեւի

անգլերէն լեզուի դասընթացքի:

Պակաւոր Աստուածաբանութեան

Յարութ Սէլիմ կը պատկանի Հալէպի Հայ Աւետ. Նահատակաց եկեղեցիին: Ներկայիս ծրագրին երկրորդ տարուան մէջ է:

Պակաւոր Քրիստոնէական Դաստիարակութեան

Լիմի Չոլագեան կը պատկանի Պէյրութի Էշրէֆիէի Հայ Աւետ. եկեղեցիին: Ուսումը կ'աւարտէ 1985-86 դպրոցական տարեշրջանին:

Շաֆէ Կեօշէրեան կը պատկանի Պէյրութի Հայ Աւետ. Էմմանուէլ եկեղեցիին: 1986 Փետրուարին կը սկսի ուսումնական ծրագրի երկրորդ տարուան:

Նախա-աստուածաբանական ուսում

Յովհաննէ Սվանեան կը պատկանի Պէյրութի Հայ Աւետ. Էմմանուէլ եկեղեցիին: Հայկազեան Գոլէճի մէջ իր նախափերջին տարին է: Կը հետեւի Պատմութեան ճիւղին:

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Վերոյիշեալ աշակերտները կ'ապրին Արեւմտեան Պէյրութի մէջ: Անոնցմէ եօթը կ'ապրին Աստուածաբանական Դպրոցի շէնքին մէջ, արաբ եւ ափրիկեցի 30 աշակերտներու հետ մէկտեղ: Իբր նոյն դաշտին մէջ գործելու պատրաստուող ուսանողներ, անոնք աղօթքով կը հաղորդակցին իրարու հետ շաբաթական հանդիպումներով եւ ծրագրուած կամ անպաշտօն ընկերային եւ մտերիմ պահեր ունենալով: Մնացեալ աշակերտներուն հետ հաղորդակցութիւնը կը կատարուի առօրեայ պաշտամունքով, ծրագրուած շաբաթական Աստուածաշունչի սերտողութեան պահով եւ ճաշասենեակի ու զրասենեակի «ընտանեկան» հանդիպումներով:

Ուսումնական ծրագրին ու շէնքին մթնոլորտը երբեմն կ'ազդուին անկայուն քաղաքական եւ ապահովութեան անկայուն կացութեան պատճառով, սակայն երկնային պաշտպանութեան եւ հոգածութեան վստահելով այս աշակերտները կը պատրաստուին, որպէսզի իրենց ծառայութեան միջոցով Քրիստոսի եկեղեցին շինուի եւ բարի լուրը տարածուի:

ՓՕԼ ՀԱՅՏՈՍԹԵԱՆ



ԾՆՈՐՀԱԿԱԼՈՒԹԵԱՄԲ ՍՏԱՅՈՒԱԾ ԳԻՐՔԵՐ

Հոգեկան Յոգեր. - Հեղինակ՝ Վեր. Նշան Գ. Խաչատուրեան: Ազգային, պատմական ու կրօնական բնոյթ կրող ընտիր յօդուածներու հատոր մը: Թղթակազմ: 373 էջ: Նուէր՝ 10 տողար: Ստանալու համար դիմել Աւետարանական Ընկերակցութեան Գրատունը:

Համառոտ Տեսութիւն Քերականի. - Հեղինակ՝ Յովհաննէ Մործորեցի (1283-1340): Աշխատասիրութիւն Լ. Գ. Խաչերեանի: Միջնադարեան մեր կարկառուն մատենագիրին լեզուա-քերականական աշխատութիւնը ներկայացնող շահեկան հատոր մը: Լաթակազմ: 379 էջ:

OBITUARIES

Sympathies extended: - The Board of Directors, the Executive Director, the Field Directors and the staff, all of whom are acquainted with the deceased, their families and relatives through the AMAA records, extend their sincere and deep sympathies to the immediate kin, relatives and friends of the deceased, whose obituaries, transmitted to the Editor by pastors, friends or relatives, are recorded below.

"Let not your heart be troubled," said our Lord, "ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions . . . I go to prepare a place for you. . . , I will come again, and receive you unto myself." (Jo. 14:1-3). This is the hope by which we should all live.

COMPOSER RICHARD YARDUMIAN - 1917-1985



Composer Richard Yardumian

Richard Yardumian, 68, who was ranked among the nation's leading composers, died of a heart attack at his home on August 15th.

A composer in the classical mold, his work was often performed by the Philadelphia Orchestra.

His major compositions, 24 symphonies, Masses and choral works, reflected the depth of his religious feeling, his affection for musical tradition and his desire to give new life to old forms.

Born into a family steeped in music, he was the youngest of the ten children of The Rev. and Mrs. Haig Yardumian. His basic musical education was drawn from the books he read at the Library on Logan Square.

"I used to take my lunch and study music there for hours, every day for two years," he told an interviewer some years ago.

By the time he graduated from West Philadelphia High School, he was composing. At 19, he completed his *Armenian Suite*, one of his best-known works. He was an Army private, a soldier training for the infantry in 1945, when Eugene Ormandy and the Philadelphia Orchestra premiered his *Desolate City*, a work scored with confidence and competence, the critics said.

Ormandy introduced the *Armenian Suite* in 1954, and the orchestra performed the work 18 times during its first season in the repertoire. The young composer was established.

He studied harmony under William Hapich, counterpoint under Alexander Matthews, piano with George Boyle. He was encouraged to go further by Jose Iturbi and Leopold Stokowski.

He studied conducting at L'Ecole Monteux in Hancock, Maine, and did independent research into music of the past.

By the mid-1960s, he had committed himself to ten years of work under commission on hand. And he had found a patron, the late Rev. Theodore Pitcairn, a minister in the Swedenborgian Church and an heir to the Pittsburgh Plate Glass Co. fortune.

The support continued after Mr. Pitcairn's death in 1973. He stipulated in his Will that \$200,000 be used from his estate to promote the work of the composer who held the post of music director of the Lord's New Church.

One of his commissions was for a Mass in English in celebration of Fordham University's 125th anniversary. Complex and strongly modal, it was first performed at the Academy of Music by the Chamber Symphony of Philadelphia and three choral groups in 1967. His *Oratorio on Abraham* was commissioned for the 150th anniversary of the Maryville (Tenn.) College. In 1975, he was commissioned to do a work for cello and orchestra based on Winston Churchill and his composition, *Danse*, was scheduled for publication on the day he died.

His gracious, able, supportive, and loving

wife, speaking of their last evening together said, "Our conversation was of his work and of our children and grandchildren and of our travel plans to visit each of them not living nearby. But most significant was the final reordering of our values from a spiritual maturity that had brought us to a state of joy, peace and harmony in our life together. Fifty years ago, we thought we had invented 'love'; but those dramatic, wonderful 'honeymoon days' only wanly hinted at the fulfillment of oneness gifted to us in the prime of our marriage love," and quoted this timely verse:

Until we hear a' song
We know not what music is
nor how sound must live through us.
Until we see a flower
We know not what color is
nor how sightless we have been.
Until we dwell in sunlight
We know not what darkness is
nor how needful shapes and forms.
Until we know selfless love's encircling
We know not how heaven sings
weaving our hearts into one.
Surviving are his wife, Ruth S.; sons, Samuel and Nishan; daughters, Ana Dunn, Esther Smyth, Miryam, Rebekah, Rachel, Dora, Mira, and Vera; four grandchildren; a brother, and a sister.

ARMINE HELVAJIAN

After a long and painful period of illness Mr. Nishan Helvajian's dearest wife, Armine, entered her eternal rest on March 30, 1984, in London, England, at the age of 53.

Armine was born in Aleppo, Syria, to Khat-cher and Hripsime Hagopian who raised their only daughter and three sons in the spirit of the Gospel and in the fear of God. She attended the Armenian Evangelical Bethel School of Aleppo, and when her family moved to Beirut, Lebanon, she studied at the "School of Life" of the Armenian Brotherhood Church. She accepted Jesus Christ as her personal Lord and Savior when she was 15. Her friends and classmates testify that she was an industrious, kind and charming girl who looked more like an angel rather than a pupil in the school.

In 1949, by divine providence, Nishan met Armine when he visited Beirut. They were



Armine Helvajian with her surviving husband Nishan

married the same year and settled in Cyprus. God blessed them with two daughters and one son. They raised their children in the same Christian faith that was instilled in them by their parents.

Following the Cyprus crisis in 1955, the pulpits of the two Armenian Evangelical Churches in Cyprus became vacant. God led them to serve these churches as volunteers for ten years. In 1964, they moved to England and settled in London. Here they joined the Armenian Evangelical Fellowship and continued their volunteer Christian ministry by preaching the Gospel's message of salvation. God blessed them richly for twenty years, during which they had the joy of seeing their children grow, graduate from college and have their own families.

Following surgery in the Fall of 1983, her strength began to fail despite the assurances of doctors that the surgery was successful.

"Armine's last year was a period of excruciating pains for her and deep anguish for us," writes Mr. Helvajian. "With my dear mother-in-law, we served her day and night, and earnestly prayed for her recovery. Friends, relatives, pastors and entire churches joined us in our supplication for God's help. 'May His will be done,' she always said, 'for I am prepared to meet my Lord.' And the Lord preferred to call her before His throne where she is now enjoying the comfort and fellowship of His angels."

A great multitude of family members, relatives, friends as well as representatives of community organizations attended the funeral service for Armine. The testimonies and the eulogies, spoken both in Armenian and in English, affirmed that Christ was glorified by

her life as well as by her death (Phil. 1:20).

Armine was a gentle soul who treated everyone with kindness and Christian love. She enjoyed serving others, especially ministers and Christian workers. She loved her people and always extended her help to Armenian Charitable organizations and women's group in the community. She believed in the power of prayer, and prayed constantly and ardently. She had a strong faith in life eternal through Jesus Christ. When the doctors informed the family that she could live only two or three more days, their hearts were broken and they wept bitterly. Yet, she pleaded that all crying stop because she knew that she was going to Jesus to live with Him forever.

"Our sense of loss is great and very deep," writes her husband. "But we praise the Lord for the comfort of the Holy Spirit which assures us that she now lives in 'a home built by God, a house not made with hands, eternal in heavens.' (II Cor. 5:1).

"Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord henceforth. Blessed indeed, says the Spirit, that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow them." (Rev. 14:13).

DR. VOSGEPERAN MERJANIAN

Dr. Vosgeperan P. Merjanian was called to be with his Lord on August 17, 1985 in Beirut, Lebanon. He was born in 1905 in Marash, Cilician Armenia, the second son of Panos and Mariam Merjanian, who nurtured him with Christian principles that guided his thoughts and actions throughout his life. In 1922, after the massacres in Marash, the family moved to Beirut where he attended the American University and received his Doctor of Dental Surgery degree in 1932.

On July 4, 1939 he married Josephine Hasserjian. Daily devotionals became the hallmark of their family life. They worked as a team, using their talents for the glory of God and for the needs of their fellowmen. Their home became a center for dynamic discourse and living and their gracious hospitality warmed the hearts of many.

Dr. Merjanian served with dedication and commitment on various educational and church boards and committees as chairman and as treasurer. He was instrumental in establishing a registration fee system at the Armenian Evangelical schools, which helped to produce much needed funds for the operation of the Armenian Evangelical Union of the Near East. He was also a moving force in helping establish the Hilsbund Mission in Ainjar, Lebanon.



Dr. Vosgeperan Merjanian

Dr. Merjanian was a loving husband, devoted father, and a competent professional who was respected and well liked by his peers, patients, and the community. He was a humble man who was generous with his time and money.

In 1982 he suffered a massive stroke. His wife served him with love and devotion for three years. Visits and assistance by friends during these trying times brought a ray of sunshine into their lives.

His loss leaves a great void, but the knowledge that he lived a meaningful life brings comfort to his family and many friends. "Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord, henceforth. Blessed indeed, says the Spirit, that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow them." (Rev. 14:13).

Dr. Vosgeperan Merjanian is survived by his wife, Josephine; two sons, Stephen and Edward and their families; two brothers and four sisters and their families.

GEORGE ANUSH KAZARIAN

Born in 1929 to Armenian immigrants, George S. and Khankeni Kazarian, Anush grew up in an East Los Angeles Neighborhood that was a melting pot for many different nationalities and ethnic groups. This, in part, contributed to his understanding of people and his ability to make everyone feel at ease in his presence.

Upon graduating from High School in 1943, he enlisted in the United States Army Air Force, achieving the rank of 2nd Lieutenant and was assigned as a Bombardier on a B-29.

After the war he completed his education and married Queenie Shmavonian in 1951. They were blessed with two children: Christopher and Janeen.

In 1953 he began his career as an Industrial



Mr. George Anush Kazarian

Arts teacher and dedicated the next 29 years to helping young people learn and help themselves. The same year he also began teaching engineering drawing at East Los Angeles College where he was a faculty member until his death.

One of the first things he instilled in his children was to .. "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you," and, "Don't judge a man by his stature or appearance — but by what is in his heart."

Anush had a very strong faith which was demonstrated by his actions for all to see. If someone was in need, he would fulfill that need by doing something about it. Each year, for many years, he, along with friends, would make toys and distribute them as Christmas gifts to the sick and underprivileged children.

When Anush became ill early this year, his attitude did not change. His smile as well as his care and concern for others was always there. The Apostle says that the fruit of the spirit is "Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control."

Anush was all of these, for he had the spirit of Christ in him.

YESTER MOORADIAN

Mrs. Yester Mooradian joined her Master on Friday, August 23, 1985 in Worcester, MA. Her funeral service was held at the Armenian Congregational Church of the Martyrs with The Rev. Manasseh Shnorhokian officiating.

Yester was a lifelong contributor to the missionary work of the AMAA. She regularly prayed for the Association and faithfully supported its outreach. She was a real believer in Christ and His salvation, often speaking about the continual presence of Jesus and her final rest in eternity. She knew her Bible very well and quoted from it often. She was such

a faithful member of the church and the Women's Aid Society that even during her illness she continued to contribute to the Church, the Societies and to the AMAA regularly.

Yester is survived by her children — Armen Mourad, Boghos and Agnes Egsejian and their families; 6 grandchildren and 1 great-grandchild.

JOHN MAROOT

John Maroot passed away on July 30, 1985 at the age of 78. He was born in 1907 in Los Angeles, CA. He moved to Corcoran, CA with his parents in 1930 and operated the Corcoran Mercantile Store. In 1955 he sold the store and became a real estate broker.

John was fully involved in community life and public service activities. In 1964, he was named Corcoran's first "Man of the Year" for all his community services. In 1971, he was appointed by the then California Governor Ronald Reagan to the Kings County Board of Supervisors.

Following his retirement in 1980, the Downtown Park in Corcoran, CA was named in his honor. "His hallmark was quality of leadership, and his legacy one of greatness. Such men come far too seldom into our midst." Quotes like this were made by many of his friends.

John Maroot was an active member of the First Methodist Church of Corcoran for many years. He was a supporter of AGBU and the missionary work of the AMAA. He is survived by his wife, the former Eunice Kaprielian of Reedley; a son, Phillip Maroot, an attorney in Hanford; a daughter, Janice Maroot of Monterey; two sisters, Mrs. Nury Barsam of Fresno and Mrs. Lucene Hull of Paradise, all of California; and four grandchildren.

ERRATUM: We apologize for the incorrect spelling of Mrs. Cecelia Thorossian Arzounian's name which appeared in the August 1985 issue of the AMAA NEWS in connection with the obituary of her husband, Kasper Arzounian.

The AMAA Board of Directors extend their heartfelt condolences to the families of the deceased through the medium of the AMAA NEWS.

*KASHIAN, Mr. Puzant
Menlo Park, CA
SHADBEGIAN, Araxie
Ft. Lauderdale, FL

YAGIAN, Stephen Ara
San Francisco, CA June 14, 1985
CALDWELL, Mr. K. David
Ogden, Utah June 23, 1985
DER MANUELIAN, Mrs. Armenouhi
Cambridge, MA July 17, 1985
MISSIRLIAN, John Ghazar
Royal Oak, MI July 20, 1985
TOMAJAN, Miss Shamiran
Detroit, MI July 23, 1985
HALVAJIAN, Mrs. Angel
Marseille, France July 23, 1985
*MAROOT, Mr. John
Corcoran, CA July 30, 1985
**MOUSSIAN, Azniv
Van Nuys, CA August, 1985
HOVIVIAN, Mr. George
La Palma, CA August, 1985
*CAPRIELIAN, Mr. & Mrs. Arthur
Dallas, TX August 2, 1985
*MAHSEREJIAN, Lauren
Dallas, TX August 2, 1985
*MAHSEREJIAN, Mark
Dallas, TX August 2, 1985
*MAHSEREJIAN, Mrs. Suzan
Dallas, TX August 2, 1985
*YERANIAN, Miss Margaret
Newtonville, MA August 6, 1985
BAXTER, Mr. Ben
Fowler, CA August 7, 1985
*ABASHIAN, Mrs. Esgouhi
La Jolla, CA August 8, 1985
*GURLEKIAN, Mrs. Seta
Los Angeles, CA August 8, 1985
*YARDUMIAN, Mr. Richard
Huntington, PA August 15, 1985
*ORPHAN, Mr. Paul
San Jose, CA August 16, 1985
*MERJANIAN, Dr. Vosgeperan
Beirut, Lebanon August 17, 1985
GHORBAJIAN, Mrs. Armine
Bayside, N.Y. August 19, 1985
MOORADIAN, Mrs. Yester
Worcester, MA August 23, 1985
BOYAJIAN, Mr. John
Fresno, CA August 30, 1985
KAZARIAN, Mr. Anoush George
Los Angeles, CA Sept. 5, 1985
TEZEL, Mr. M.
Istanbul, Turkey Sept. 9, 1985
*EGSEJIAN, Mr. Vartkes
Fuquay Varina, NC Sept. 13, 1985
MAGARIAN, Mr. Howard
Fresno, CA Sept. 21, 1985
*ELMAJIAN, Dr. Emmanuel
Beirut, Lebanon Sept. 21, 1985
*CHOPOURIAN, Mrs. Patricia
London, England Oct. 28, 1985
MILLIAN, Mrs. F.
Teaneck, NJ Nov. 1, 1985
*MANIAN, Ara
Manhasset, NY Nov. 2, 1985
*KALAYJIAN, Arika
Belmont, MA Nov. 7, 1985

*Memorials were designated for AMAA.

**Bequest assigned.

IDEAS FROM WILLS OF FAMOUS PEOPLE

NAME AN ALTERNATE EXECUTOR

Edna Ferber, the famous novelist, left an estate valued at over \$1 million. One of her good friends was the noted attorney Morris L. Ernst, so she named him executor. He advised her to name another friend as alternate executor, and she did. — YOUR WILL should name both an executor and an alternate executor.

PROVIDE FOR SIMULTANEOUS DEATH

John Dos Passos, well-known writer, lost his first wife in an auto accident in 1947. He suffered serious injury himself in the accident. When he wrote his will he included provisions in case of simultaneous death. — YOUR WILL should have provision for simultaneous death. It is specially important with regard to the guardianship of young children. You should have an understanding with the relatives or friends you would choose, and put the details in both your wills.

KEEP YOUR WILL UP-TO-DATE

Walt Disney was the founder of a \$100 million entertainment empire, as everyone knows. Few also know, however, that he was a conscientious custodian of his property. His will was complicated . . . a veritable lawyer's paradise. The important point, however, is that Disney kept it up-to-date. He made his latest revisions only nine months before he died. YOUR WILL should be kept up-to-date. You should review it at least once a year.

NAME A REMAINDER BENEFICIARY

Dorothy Gish, film star, left an estate of over half a million dollars. She put the estate in trust for Lillian, her sister, for the rest of her life, then designated the Actors Fund of America as remainder beneficiary. YOUR WILL should name a remainder beneficiary, even though your estate may be modest. Why risk having a sizeable chunk of your estate go to people whom you do not know when you can name individuals or organizations as remainder beneficiaries, if your property "outlives" your main heirs?

REMEMBER YOUR CHURCH

John Hays Hammond, Jr. left his prize possession, the famous castle-like Hammond Museum in Gloucester, MA, to his church as trustee. YOUR WILL is your last opportunity to witness on earth to your religious beliefs, whatever they

may be. Consider a tithe of your estate. Remember the impact of your gift on others who haven't thought of a religious bequest. It is worth special thought.

GIVE YOUR EXECUTOR FULL FLEXIBILITY

John Steinbeck, the famous novelist, left an estate of well over \$1 million dollars. He resisted the common temptation to "rule with a dead hand" far into the future. YOUR WILL should grant the utmost possible flexibility to your executor(s), and trustees if any. After picking an executor you trust, give him the power to use his good judgment and act on behalf of your heirs to conserve and, if possible, increase your estate.

SET UP A TRUST FUND

Dr. Wm. Scholl's name became a household word thanks to the many footcare products he invented and produced. He set up the Scholl Family Trust Fund. The framework of the trust greatly simplified the distribution of bequests to his family. YOUR WILL may work out better if you set up a trust fund prior to death. The trust department of your bank can advise you on this. It's worth checking, regardless of the size of your estate.

GIVE TO WORTHY CAUSES

As most of the above did, and many others do, YOUR WILL can truly reflect your character and beliefs in the causes you supported in life.

WON'T YOU REMEMBER US?

A large part of AMAA's work is dependent on funds received via bequests. Here are three simple and popular ways to make bequests:

1. Fixed amount. Simply state a dollar amount to be given from your estate.
2. Fixed percentage. State a fixed percentage of your estate to be given.
3. Residue. After providing for close relatives and others for whom you feel a responsibility, designate the residue of your estate for our work.

For a fuller account, please write to the AMAA at 140 Forest Avenue, Paramus, NJ 07652, for the booklet entitled, "Twelve Ideas From The Wills of 12 Famous People," or "How To Write a Will That Works" or both.

Armenian Missionary Association of America
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Paramus, NJ 07652

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